

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 00225 061148Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00  
USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 SP-02 SS-15 INR-07 PA-01  
PRS-01 /044 W  
-----083934 061151Z /15

O R 061055Z JAN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6375  
INFO DIA WASHDC  
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD  
AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE  
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST  
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST  
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE  
AMCONSUL MUNICH  
AMEMBASSY SOFIA  
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 0225

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1  
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, UR  
SUBJECT: BREZHNEV RESURFACES JANUARY 5 AT KREMLIN CEREMONY

SUMMARY: LOOKING TIRED AND DRAWN, BUT OTHERWISE FIT,  
BREZHNEV REAPPEARED JANUARY 5 TO PRESIDE OVER AN  
AWARDS CEREMONY AT THE KREMLIN. BREZHNEV WAS SHOWN  
TO THE SOVIET PUBLIC FOR FIFTEEN MINUTES ON THE  
JANUARY 5 TELEVISION NEWSCAST "VREMYA" AS HE  
READ THE AWARDS SPEECH, HANDED OUT MEDLAS, AND  
LISTENED TO RECIPIENTS' WORDS OF THANKS. JUDGING  
FROM COMPREHENSIVE FILM COVERAGE OF EVENT,  
CEREMONY MUST HAVE TAKEN NO MORE THAN TWENTY-FIVE  
MINUTES. END SUMMARY.

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1. DURING AWARDS CEREMONY FOR SUSLOV, RASHIDOV,  
DEMICHEV, OGARKOV, SHCHELOKOV AND BUGAYEV (ASSUME  
DEPARTMENT HAS JANUARY 5 TASS REPORT OF EVENT)  
BREZHNEV'S DICTION WAS SLURRED BUT WITHIN NORMAL  
RANGE FOR HIM. HE APPEARED TO CONCENTRATE ON  
SPEAKING SLOWLY AND DELIBERATELY AS HE READ HIS  
REMARKS. BEFORE BEGINNING HIS TALK, BREZHNEV

SNIFFLED A FEW TIMES BUT UNLIKE SUSLOV, DID NOT FEEL THE NEED TO WIPE HIS NOSE WITH A HANDKERCHIEF. BREZHNEV'S RIGHT HAND TREMBLED NOTICEABLY AT FIRST AS HE HELD HIS NOTES, BUT LATER HIS HAND STEADIED. ALTHOUGH DRAWN AND TIRED, BREZHNEV SHOWED SIGNS OF BEING UNUSUALLY TAXED AS HE STOOD THROUGH THE PORTION OF THE CEREMONY SHOWN ON TV WHICH INCLUDED NEARLY FOUR MINUTES OF WORDY THANKS FROM MAIN RECIPIENT SUSLIV, AND BRIEF REMARKS BY OTHERS.

2. COMMENT: ALL TOGETHER THE JANUARY 5 KREMLIN SHOW, WHICH IS FRONT-PAGED IN JANUARY 6 NEWSPAPERS, PROVIDED THE PUBLIC WITH A SUSTAINED VIEW OF BREZHNEV AND LEADS US TO CONCLUDE THAT THE GENERAL SECRETARY WAS, AS SENIOR SOVIET OFFICIALS CLAIM, ONLY TEMPORARILY INDISPOSED SINCE EARLY DECEMBER WITH FLU. MARSHAL OGARKOV'S AWARD WAS OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED LAST OCTOBER AND BUGAYEV'S PROMOTION TO CHIEF MARSHAL OF THE AIR FORCE WAS ALSO MADE PUBLIC SEVERAL MONTHS AGO. THE SUSLOV AND DEMICHEV AWARDS APPEAR OF MORE RECENT ORIGIN (SUSLOV'S 75TH BIRTHDAY WAS IN NOVEMBER AND DEMICHEV'S 60TH IN JANUARY).

3. THE FRG EMBASSY TELLS US ROMANIAN AMBASSADOR RECENTLY TOLD THEIR AMBASSADOR WIECK WITH CERTAINTY  
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THAT BREZHNEV DID NOT RPT NOT APPEAR AT DECEMBER 13 CC PLENARY AT WHICH SOVIET MEDIA CLAIMED HE MADE BIG SPEECH. ITALIANS TELL US THAT IN JANUARY 4 CONVERSATION WITH ITALIAN AMBASSADOR MFA CHIEF OF FIRST EUROPEAN DEPARTMENT DUBININ TOOK UMBRAGE AT RECENT ITALIAN PRESS SPECULATION ON BREZHNEV'S POOR HEALTH AND DECLARED THAT HE COULD STATE OFFICIALLY THAT BREZHNEV HAD ONLY FLUE AND NOTHING ELSE.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** HEALTH  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Executive Order:** X1  
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**TAGS:** PINT, PGOV, UR, (BREZHNEV, LEONID I)  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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